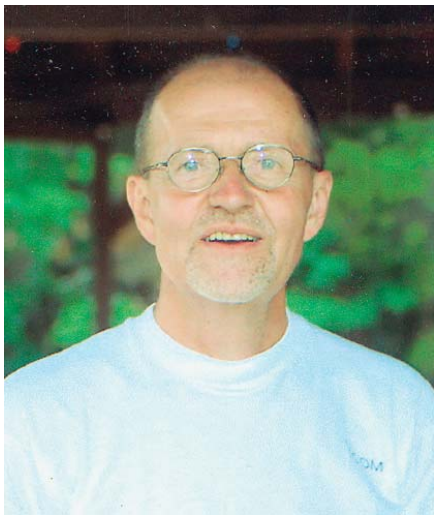
The OVH ARC Newsletter
"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 1255, Manassas, Va. 20108
FM Repeaters - W4OVH - 146.970- & 224.660- & 442.200+
D-STAR Repeater - W4OVH - 442.5125+
OVH Packet - Port 1: 145.730 Mhz, Port 3: 223.540 MHz - Sysop: Bill/N4SV
http://www.w4ovh.net

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

May 2010

Next Meeting: Monday, May 17, 2010

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:



Greetings, I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful Spring weather.

As I write this, I am getting ready to go to the Dayton Hamvention in Dayton, Ohio which begins later this week. This is the largest hamfest in the world, and attracts hams from all around the world. For those of you that are not going, I hope to have some pictures at the upcoming OVH Club meeting on Monday, May 17th. Each year Dayton has been a wonderful event. The attendance has been lower the last few years; however, whenever 20,000 Hams get together you can't imagine the fun, especially trying to find a clear frequency to use or a place to eat.

This year we'll try to contact the OVH D-star repeater from the Dayton Hamfest, by order of Keith / KM4AA we need to accomplish this :-). Hope to talk with some of you on the D-Star repeater from Dayton using this very neat mode.

The Spring Hamfest season is now in full swing. In the OVH we are in the final stages of preparation for the OVH Manassas Hamfest which will be held on Sunday, June 13th. If you haven't volunteered yet, please contact Chris / KI4POT to do so. Help will be needed throughout the entire Hamfest weekend (June 12th and 13th). Remember, this is for our club and benefits each of us by maintaining the repeater infrastructure, funding new projects, scholarships and general club activities. Matters relating to the OVH Manassas Hamfest will be a major topic area at the upcoming regular OVH meeting on Monday, May 17th. Plan to attend that meeting and also to monitor the OVH reflector for latest details and developments for the OVH Hamfest. Please find the time to help out!

June is always the busiest month for the OVH. The annual Field Day event will be just two weekends after the OVH Hamfest. A lot of work and planning is going into

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Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, Virginia 20108

OFFICERS

President: George Tarnovsky	K4GVT	791-5956
Vice Pres: Wayne Kline	AG4ZZ	791-2100
Secretary: Theresa Heartney	KG4TVM	257-3556
Treasurer: Gary Gilham	WG4ARC	932-1118

DIRECTORS

Don (Butch) Blasdell	W4HJL	369-2877
Art Whittum	W1CRO	791-4330
Charlie Dale	WA4YGI	361-3091

WEEKLY NETS

Thursdays - 8:00 PM	JOHN H	257-3566

HAMFEST 2010

Chris	KI4POT	361-3257
Bruce	AB8CI	361-8873

FIELD DAY 2010

John	KG4NXT /	257-3556
Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3556
Wayne	N7QLK	393-8447

CLUB ROSTER

Blaine	KB4RKL	369-2877

EDUCATION

Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033

CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Meola	KI4AZX	393-6681

ARES AREA EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Lane	KG4GIY	361-3042

F.A.R. REPS.

Ruth	KU4WH	331-1234
Mary Lu	KB4EFP	369-2877

FINANCE

Mary Lu	KB4EFP	369-2877
Joe	KI4OHR	369-2639
Ruth	KU4WH	331-1234

GENERATORS

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794

HISTORIAN

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566

WEBMASTER — W4OVH.NET

Bill	N4SV	590-9562

EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

David Lane	KG4GIY	361-3042

JOTA

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566

LEGAL

Pete	KB4RME	369-2436

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Bruce	AB8CI	361-8873

NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910

NEWSLINE

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566

PACKET

Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N4SV	590-9562

PROGRAMS

TBA

WINTER FIELD DAY 2011

Joe	KI4OHR	369-2639

PUBLICITY

Trisha Wells	KI4PCM	335-1096

QUARTERMASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008

REPEATER CONTROLLERS

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844

W4OVH / W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512

SCHOLARSHIP

Jim	W4JTP	392-0150

SUNSHINE

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3556

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

George	K4GVT	791-5956
Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N4SV	590.9562
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Karl	W4KRL	802-1527
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939

All tel. numbers listed are for Area Code 703 unless otherwise noted,
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The OVH ARC regular monthly meeting is at 7:30 p.m. every third Monday of the month at the Prince William County Red Cross Chapter House at 9930 Liberia Avenue, Manassas, Virginia. Members, prospective members and all other interested persons are invited to attend. Local information can also always be obtained through the OVH's FM repeaters on 146.97 & 224.660 Mhz. Up to date information about OVH activities and meetings is also available on the OVH web site at **http://www.w4ovh.net**.

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that too - which is one of the most fun events for everyone each year.

DV-Board Project - I now have all the parts here, however, work and a new grandson have complicated finding the time to schedule the builds sessions. I hope to accomplish this in the very near future.

Hope to see you all on Monday, May 17th at 7:30 p.m. at the meeting room at the Prince William County Red Cross at 9930 Liberia Avenue, Manassas.

73 George K4GVT

Sunshine Corner:

A very happy May birthday to Chris / KI4POT, Bob / N4RL, David / KG4GIY, Bill / WA4FIC, Jack / N4YIC, Craig / N4WUV, Craig / WA3UFY, Blaine / KB4RKL, Susan / K3SSP, Jim / W4JTP, Bruce / AB8CI and closing out the month is John / KG4NXT. Wow that's a lot of candles!

Welcome to our newest members voted in during the April meeting, Mark / W2RX and Jeff / W4JWX.

The school year is winding down, if you have someone in your family graduating please let me know!

Congratulations to Elizabeth / KG4NXV on completing 4 years at Virginia Tech and getting her Mechanical Engineering degree. Elizabeth was an OVH scholarship winner and we are very proud of her!

Graduating from high school is Megan Phillips, daughter of Wayne / N7QLK. Megan will be attending Towson University in the fall. Way to go Megan!

Condolences to Bob / K9OYD whose wife passed away on April 23rd.

Get well wishes go out to John / W4ICX, hope you have a quick recovery from your fall, and to Doc / W1IMX who is still recuperating.

Congratulations to George / K4GVT, his wife Ev and their entire family on the birth of their 10th grandchild.

Hamfest is coming, all hands are needed, special request for security detail and people at the back gate, please contact Chris / KI4POT and let him know where you can help out.

Wayne / N7QLK, John / KG4NXT and Theresa / KG4TVM are co-chairing Field Day 2010, a planning meeting was held already, more details at the meeting, any suggestions and/or requests – send me an email kg4tvm@hotmail.com.

Just a reminder, the Thursday night net is going strong at 8:00 pm, please join us on the OVH repeater! If you would like to be a net control just let John / KG4NXT know.

Please send me your news to kg4tvm@hotmail.com or call 703-257-3566.

73 Theresa KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting April 19, 2010:

George / K4GVT called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Meeting was held at the Prince William County Red Cross Chapter House in Manassas, Virginia.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call

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signs. There were 29 OVH members and 1 guest.

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes from the March meeting were passed with no changes.

Treasurer's report was given by Gary / WG4ARC. Report was approved as read.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership – Bruce / AB8CI read in Keith Young / KJ4SZS. Mark Weiss / W2RX and Jeff Weiss / W4JWX were both voted in.

ARES – Keith / KM4AA reminded everyone about the Dulles Drill on May 8th; the Georgetown event is still scheduled but there won't be ham radio operators due to not enough interest. David / KG4GIY let us know that the Dulles Drill will be running 800 MHz, this is scaled down from 3 years ago.

Repeater – Keith / KM4AA is working on the linking the D-Star and FM repeaters; the dedicated telephone line will be killed this week, ending the FM repeater autopatch; thanked Art for straightening out the phone bill with Verizon; shed roof at NOVEC needs to be replaced. Al / KB4BHB will look at the roof and see what the cost would be, Al will report back at the next meeting. Keith did visit with the Anne Arundel club and they have a duplexer, he wants to know if we want to repair ours or purchase a new one, 2 Meters would be interrupted when any work would be done; George / K4GVT thanked Keith for his work.

Training – Mark / WA4KFZ just finished the Tech class, the VE session is scheduled for April 24th at the Nokesville Fire Department; Mark will look into changes being made by the ARRL as of July 1st and then think about another class.

Scholarship – Jim / W4JTP has received some inquiries from students, no applications in yet.

Hamfest – Chris / KI4POT reminded us that the contract needs to be signed; more people are needed on the back gate; prizes need to be picked out; need security for overnight. George K4GVT reported that we have received reservations for 24 vendor tables with money. Butch W4HJL will contact the Berryville group about parking.

Field Day – John / KG4NXT reported that he will conduct a fox hunt for the educational activity, he demonstrated his radio. George / K4GVT has the official hat and shirt.

Sunshine – Theresa / KG4TVM reported April birthdays. Art / W1CRO gave us a report on Doc / W1IMX that he has another month of physical therapy from his injury; Butch W4HJL reported that John / W4ICX had a bad fall and is not sure if he is home from the hospital yet.

Winter Field Day – Joe / KI4OHR has asked to have Winter Field Day included on the Committee list at each meeting.

Old Business – None

New Business – Art / W1CRO passed around copies of the proposed budget as well as the numbers for 2008 & 2009. Gary / W4ARC thanked everyone that showed up to help set up the antennas at the Red Cross house. Steve / N4OGR was contacted by John Nagel at PWCPD to have our members vote on a change to the crime prevention logo, motion was made to change the logo and this passed.

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50/50 – $32 was collected, $16 was won by Keith / KJ4GUT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

May 14th - 16th, Dayton Hamvention - Dayton Ohio ARA, details at http://www.hamvention.org. This is the still the biggest hamfest in the world.

June 13th, OVH ARC Hamfest Prince William Fairgrounds, Manassas Virginia, up to date details at http://www.w4ovh.com.

June 25th - 27th, Ham Radio – Friedrichshafen, Gemany. This conflicts with ARRL Field Day but is the biggest hamfest in Europe, 18K+ attendees. Details at http://www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.de.

July 18, Maryland Hamfest and Computer Fest at the Howard County Fairgrounds. Details and more information at http://www.bratsatv.org.

Aug 1st, Berryville Hamfest at the Clark County Fairgrounds, Berryville, VA. Details and more information at http://www.svarc.us/hamfest.

OPERATING EVENTS AND CONTESTS

June 26th - 27th. The annual ARRL - OVH Field Day event at the Nokesville Community Park, Nokesville, Virginia, about 6 miles SW of Manassas at the Pavillion. Plan to attend. More details in on page 7 below in this Newsletter, in the next Newsletter and on the OVH web site, w4ovh.net.

There a many other operating contests almost all of the time The excellent web site maintained by WA7BNM lists most of them! See http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/

PUBLIC SERVICE / TRAINING / ARES EVENTS

Check the online Calendar by David / KG4GIY at http://www.pwcares.org for latest updates. David maintains a comprehensive calendar for upcoming events at that web site.

A Few Sources with Interesting Technical Information

1. http://www.ipellejero.es/hf/hfpanel.html. This web page by EA4FSI uses IFRAMES and other web scraping techniques to accumulate and present Spaceweather, Solar, MUF, Ionosonde, Ionosphere and other HF Propagation information from a very large number of web sites with related source data. This is the most comprehensive such site your editor has found. Written in good English, some Spanish.

2. http://www.thegleam.com/ke5fx/uwave.html. At this URL you will find detailed technical information by KE5FX about construction and operation of wireless Ethernet based digital data links using the low cost 10 GHz Gunnplexer transceiver sets.

3. http://www.iceradioproducts.com/10.html. At this web site provided by a small manufacturer selling the ham radio related products, including remote feed line switches, you will find technical information about lightning protection, shielding, grounding, and related topics.

4. http://kc9bqa.com/?p=2641. At this URL KC9BQA provides a series of discussions about VHF / UHF contesting, including station design and setup.

5. http://www.k1ttt.net/technote/techref.html - lots of very solid technical information covering many, many ham related topics.

Keith / KM4AA - Repeater Operations - Some Aspects of FM vs D-Star Differences

From time to time most of us pick up habits both good and bad. Those of you that have been around flying, know that as a pilot you must periodically do a check ride. The purpose is to discover and eliminate bad habits that have developed.

In our routine day-to-day radio repeater use we are no different. We become so accustomed to using the radio that we may lapse in polite, customary, or even regulatory obligations. Before anyone is alarmed, I am not aware of any regulatory infractions. Having said that, perhaps a quick run through of how the structure filters down:

- FCC is concerned with legal (regulatory) aspects specifically as it pertains to the U.S.
- ARRL is concerned with good practices and provides guidelines to foster operating activities of all types.
- Local clubs often have their own idiosyncrasies. This is why you will sometimes hear an operator say “This is” or “Listening.” Sometimes a user [usually a newcomer] will say “break” only to be chastised by many listeners for improper radio use. OVH has never made an outline of what is appropriate. While some of these informal usages may be unclear, they usually do not deter communications.

As part of this, one must note that pertinent features of the FM repeaters are somewhat different than for a D-Star repeater. In the case of an FM repeater:

- There is a kerchunk filter which is meant to keep random noise from causing the repeater to transmit and ID, and is most useful when the PL tone is turned off. A kerchunk filter, however, will often also take out the first part of a voice transmission. So if you call saying “K4GVT KM4AA”, the first call may be cut out and listeners will only hear the second call, not the call sign of the individual being called. Likewise if you only key up and announce, a listener may only hear the last letter of your call - nothing more. With FM repeaters, one should pause briefly when first keying up, before speaking.
- Keep in mind too that you must ID if you transmit. The operation of kerchunking an FM repeater as a test is OK as long as you don’t interfere with someone trying to hold a conversation and you identify.
- FM repeaters also have reset beeper which beep 2 seconds after you un-key. The FM repeater has a time-out-timer and allowing this to happen insures that the time-out timer has been reset. This also encourages users to allow time for another operator to break into a conversation. The primary reason is this person may have an emergency and needs to have priority to the pass critical information. If you hear someone announce right after you un-key. It is best to immediately allow them to have a turn at using the FM repeater, rather than continue to speak for 2 – 3 minutes and pass to them in rotation. That way if they do have an emergency they can get that information across to who needs it.

The D-Star system has several variances differences compared to an FM repeater. For a D-Star repeater:

- There is no kerchunk filter nor any PL tone capability on D-Star. The D-Star repeater simply will not come up at all if the proper call signs are not programmed into your D-Star radio; a D-Star repeater must always recognize a proper digital sequence before it will transmit, and random noise should not bring up a D-Star repeater.
- Kerchunking a D-Star repeater? You shouldn’t do this, but if you do, your D-Star radio may uniquely identify you digitally as fast as you key it on and even before you can speak. Nevertheless, you still always should identify by voice; if another user is mobile, he / she cannot / should not take eyes off traffic to look at the D-Star radio’s display to see who it is; a voice announcement is the only way such users can know. It is also important to note that apparent “kerchunking” users may, in fact, be doing data transmission in which case the repeater will key, but no audio will be heard, and the D-Star protocol to cover the identification requirement.
- The “reset beep” situation on D-Star is very different. The reset beep that you hear is generated by your own radio when the carrier falls. Yes it is still important to allow the repeater to pause between transmission as someone may still need to break in, and the repeater does have a time-out-timer. If a D-Star repeater time-out does occur further transmission by the user who caused the time is automatically prohibited for 3 minutes. Thus, if you follow upon another user’s transmission too closely and then do not hear them, very likely the time-out-timer locked out the transmission. If you are doing a linked repeater system where the person you are speaking with is actually on another repeater. It may be necessary to wait 5 seconds between transmissions to allow the repeater to repeater handshake to complete.

In closing, please remember to always consider that more people are likely listening than just the person to whom you are speaking. OVH wants to present a friendly attitude and encourage others passing through to use our systems.

Start Getting Ready for FIELD DAY to be held on June 26th & 27th, 2010

From the ARRL - on May 19th a "free" Webinar about the upcoming FIELD DAY:

The ARRL's Atlantic Division will be hosting a "webinar" - an interactive Web-based seminar, designed to facilitate communication between a small number of presenters and a large remote audience using the Internet on Wednesday, May 19, 2010, starting at 9:00 PM EDT and running until 10:30 PM EDT.

The Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR - along with "Field Day Experts" - will present "Making the Most of Field Day." The ARRL's Regulatory Information Branch Manager and Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, will moderate the webinar which will be used to share information, hints and tips to individuals and groups to maximize their Field Day experience -- not just in terms of points, but in gaining valuable experience and knowledge to help groups and individuals to help maximize their Field Day fun!

Henderson has been responsible for all aspects of ARRL Field Day at ARRL HQ for the past dozen years. He will focus on some of the things that many groups might overlook during Field Day, but should consider implementing. ARRL Emergency Communications and Response Manager Mike Corey, W5MPC, ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, and Roland Anders, K3RA, will join Henderson in the webinar. Corey will be sharing some of his experiences about how to successfully engage community leaders and emergency response officials. He will also briefly talk about Field Day site safety. Pitts will present ideas on how to promote your Field Day event with the media. Anders is well known for his QST articles over the years on Field Day. He is instrumental in the very successful Field Day operations of the Potomac Valley Radio Club, W3AO. Anders will be sharing some thoughts and ideas about what it takes to put together a Field Day site effectively -- and maybe sharing a few nuggets about how PVRC has been able to sustain their Field Day "mojo" over the years.

Anyone can register for this webinar at https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/202998208. You do not need to reside in the Atlantic Division to register or participate in this.

On the ARRL's web site - a downloadable 2010 FIELD DAY information package:

Go get and read through the ARRL's "free" 2010 FIELD DAY 42 page information package at: http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%2520Logs/fd-2010-packet.pdf

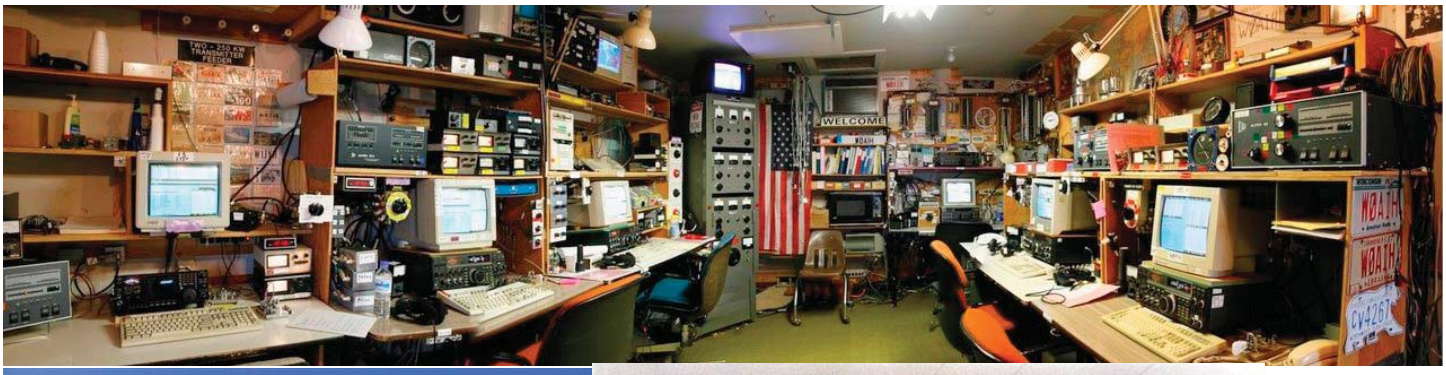
On the ARRL's web site - spot the 2010 OVH FIELD DAY location:

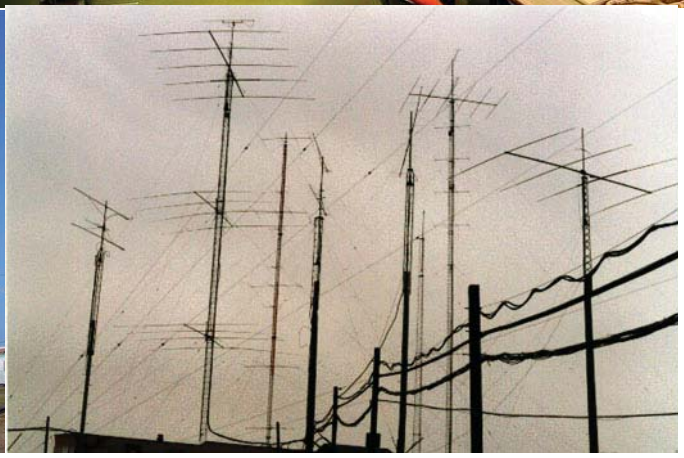
John / KG4NXT sent the information to the ARRL about the OVH's 2010 FIELD DAY location for W4OVH. You can find that: http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator where you can locate it on Google map views with markers. The setup location in the "Satellite View" will be at the red roofed Pavilion which is about 250' SSE of the W4OVH marker.

Need more "free" ham tutorials? Find the following excellent "free" webinars at:http://pvrc.org/webinar/webinars.htm

Date	Topic
June 21, 2009	A look at Tajikistan Observatory Station
July 20, 2009	W3LPL- Design, construction, and maintenance of antennas
August 5, 2009	N6BV - Contest antennas, DX or domestic, what's your pleasure ?
August 10, 2009	RA3AUU - From RRTC to WRTC 2010
August 19, 2009	K9LA - Cycle 24 and more
September 9, 2009	KR2Q - When giants walked the bands - early days of multi-multi
September 24, 2009	Collaborative PVRC/NCCC by N6BV: Hints and Kinks for Using HFTA
October 11, 2009	A look at CQWW 2009
October 17, 2009	LZ2CJ - A look at LZ9W contest station
October 19, 2009	K6MM - A 160M Helically Wound Vertical
October 20, 2009	K9LA - Propagation prediction programs - development and use.
November 19, 2009	K9LA - Disturbances to propagation
January 14, 2010	K3LR - Contest University 2010 Outline
January 20, 2010	K9LA - 160 PROPAGATION
February 4, 2010	N6TV - How to operate CW Sprint
March 14, 2010	K5ZD - Inside the CQ WPX Contest
April 11, 2010	Contesting Activities at Dayton 2010
May 7, 2010	May 7 - K4RO - Contesting 101 - Maximize Your Score & Fun!

GREAT CONTEST STATION: W0AIH





To see more, go to: http://www.qth.com/w0aih